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Claims:

1. In a wireless telecommunication system, a method of transmitting signaling messages among a plurality of entities, said signaling messages transmitted using a protocol having a standard portion for transmitting standard messages, and an extension portion for transmitting non-standard messages, comprising the steps of:

transmitting standard messages, using the standard portion of the protocol;

assigning to each pair of communicating entities, an extended protocol;

communicating between pairs of entities, using the assigned extended protocol;

in response to receipt of a message outside the Standard protocol, determining the source of the message, and interpreting the message in accordance with the extended protocol assigned for communications between a source and recipient entity.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one entity can communicate in at least two different extended protocols.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said at least one entity can translate between compatible messages in a first extended protocol and a second extended protocol.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein an extended protocol comprises at least one extended protocol operations code, not defined in the standard portion of the protocol.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said assigned extended protocol comprises at least one parameter identifier not included in said standard protocol.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said extended protocol further comprises at least one operations code not included in said standard protocol.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting a message for switching to a different extended protocol between the communicating entities.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said standard protocol is an IS-41 Protocol.

9. In a wireless telecommunication system, apparatus for transmitting signaling

messages among a plurality of entities, said signaling messages transmitted using a protocol having a standard portion for transmitting standard messages, and an extension portion for transmitting non-standard messages, comprising processor means for controlling execution of the following steps:

transmitting standard messages, using the standard portion of the protocol;

assigning to each pair of communicating entities, an extended protocol;

communicating between pairs of entities, using the assigned extended protocol;

in response to receipt of a message outside the Standard protocol, determining the source of the message, and interpreting the message in accordance with the extended protocol assigned for communications between a source and recipient entity.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein at least one entity can communicate in at least two different extended protocols.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said at least one entity can translate

between compatible messages in a first extended protocol and a second extended protocol.

12. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein an extended protocol comprises at least one extended protocol operations code, not defined in the standard portion of the protocol.

13. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said assigned extended protocol comprises at least one parameter code not included in said standard protocol.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said extended protocol further comprises at least one operations code not included in said standard protocol.

15. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said processor means are for further controlling the step of transmitting a message for switching to a different extended protocol between the communicating entities.

16. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said standard protocol is an IS-41 Protocol.